

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office LOS ANGELES	Office of Origin LOS ANGELES	Date 1/19/82	Investigative Period 1/26/81 - 1/4/82
Title of Case [Redacted]		Report made by [Redacted]	Typed By: plf b6 b7C
aka [Redacted] dba MUHAMMAD ALI PROFESSIONAL SPORTS, INC., MUHAMMAD ALI AMATEUR SPORTS, INC.		Character of Case BF&E (A); ITSP (A); CONSPIRACY; AIDING & ABETTING; OOJ; PERJURY	
[Redacted]	PRODUCTIONS, BODAK PROMOTIONS, AND ENTERPRISES;	SUMMARY	b6 b7C
[Redacted]	aka [Redacted] [Redacted] (TN); [Redacted]	[Redacted]	
WELLS FARGO BANK, Miracle Mile Office, 5950 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California; [Redacted]		aka	b6 b7C

(Title continued on next page)

Approved <u>ENB/gk</u>	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below		
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2 - USA, Los Angeles (1 - AUSA [redacted]) (1 - AUSA [redacted])	b6 b7C			
2 - Los Angeles (29A-13739) (SUB J) (WCC-3)				

Notations:



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

PROSECUTIVE REPORT OF INVESTIGATION CONCERNING

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(See next page)

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FEB 19 1978 BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FBI - LOS ANGELES
Muhammad Ali-898

LA 29A-13739

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT FORMS (FD-302s)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF INTERVIEW</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
-------------	------------------------------	-------------

b5
b6
b7C

Ali, Muhammad

2/6/81

701

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 2/19/81

Muhammad Ali was interviewed at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Suite 600, Beverly Hills, California, in the presence of [redacted] and [redacted]

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b7C

[redacted] Ali provided the following information regarding [redacted] and Muhammad Ali Professional Sports (MAPS):

Ali believes he met [redacted] sometime in 1971 or 1972. Several years ago, [redacted] approached him about using his name to sponsor an amateur track club. [redacted] was sponsoring [redacted] as well as ten or fifteen other young track stars. With the aid of Ali's name, [redacted] was able to put on a successful track meet in Los Angeles which received good television coverage. Ali said he thought this was a very positive thing for young men and women to excel in sports and see them wearing his name on their outfits. Ali thought [redacted] was doing something positive especially for the black youth of the country.

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b7C

After the successful track club, [redacted] also started a boxing club to help promote young amateur fighters. This was also a success. Ali said he traveled with the amateur team on a tour to Australia and New Zealand approximately two years ago. After both the track and boxing clubs got going, [redacted] told Ali that he wanted to start in professional boxing promotions. This was to be called MAPS. The idea behind MAPS was bring promising amateur fighters from Muhammad Ali Amateur Sports (MAAS) (the boxing club) into professional boxing and instead of managing the fighters, MAPS would just promote their fights.

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b7C

Ali did not own any interest in MAPS or in MAAS and did not invest any funds into them. Ali just allowed [redacted] to use his name for a fee. Ali was to receive \$10,000 to \$15,000 for televised events of MAAS and 25% of the net profit of events sponsors by MAPS. Ali said that in addition to those payments he also received \$200,000 for going to Australia and New Zealand with MAAS and \$200,000 for making an appearance at the [redacted] fight in August 1980, in Detroit. Ali said from time to time [redacted] would bring fighters to his house to meet him. [redacted] did this to

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b7C

Investigation on 2/6/81 at Beverly Hills, California File # LA 29A-13739

SAs [redacted] and [redacted] JCJ/plf Date dictated 2/12/81

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b7C

help sign the fighters to fights MAPS was promoting.

Ali said MAPS attempted to sponsor two fights for him. The first was the [redacted] fight in October 1980 in Las Vegas. This fight was ultimately sponsored by [redacted]. MAPS has been attempting to license a second fight, which is to be against [redacted] sometime in spring 1981. Ali said he has been given \$100,000 in the form of a cashiers check from Wells Fargo Bank as training expenses for the fight, but he has not cashed the check.

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b7C

In August 1980, [redacted] advised Ali that he was suspicious about the source of MAPS' funds and their accesssive expenditures. At the time Ali was training for the fight with [redacted] did not want to be bothered with something that was not his concern. Ali said [redacted] is an individual formerly married to [redacted] and who has been hanging around him for many years. Ali got [redacted] to hire [redacted] as a [redacted] for MAPS.

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Ali said that in November 1980, he went to MAPS' office in Santa Monica for the first time. He did this at the request of [redacted] and while at the office [redacted] asked him to sit in his chair and told him that is where he belonged, as Chairman of the Board of MAPS. Ali said he had his own suspicion about where [redacted] was getting his money. Ali said he knew most of the fights that MAPS was promoting were losing money and that the purses to the fighters were always high. Ali asked [redacted] about his expensive cars, yacht, jet airplane, the apartments for the amateur fights, the gym where the amateurs worked out, and all the people that would accompany to MAPS' fights. Ali said [redacted] told him he was one of the first blacks to make it as a successful promoter and it was just the jealous white promoters who were spreading rumors about him and he asked Ali to stick with him, that he was doing everything right and legal. Ali said sometimes [redacted] would even start crying when he (Ali) would question him about MAPS' finances.

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Ali said that on November 1980, after [redacted] had asked him to take a more active role in MAPS, he (Ali) requested the accounting firm of [redacted] to review the books of MAPS. Ali said that on several occasions, [redacted] asked to see MAPS' books, but was never successful.

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Ali said he first became aware of the embezzlement from Wells Fargo Bank, when a reporter from a Long Beach paper asked him about a large embezzlement concerning Muhammad Ali Sports and a banker named [redacted]. Ali said that the day before he was asked these questions by the reporter, he was establishing a \$1.5 million trust fund for his children at Wells Fargo Bank, and he thought the funds the reporter was talking about were his, so he phoned his attorney and asked him to investigate. Ali said when the news came out the next day about the embezzlement he withdrew permission for MAPS to use his name.

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Ali said that while he was suspicious of the source of MAPS' funds he said the furthest thing from his mind was that [redacted] had stolen all that money. Ali said he was not aware that anyone may have been extorting [redacted] or forcing him to pay excessive purses for fights he had promoted.

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Ali said he does not know [redacted] and had only been at the Wells Fargo Bank once and that was to establish his trust. Ali said he does not know [redacted] but recognized his picture as an individual who was always around [redacted].

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Ali said that if [redacted] should try and contact him he would advise him that the FBI is not going to arrest him and that he should get a lawyer and give the FBI whatever evidence he claims to have that proves he was not involved in the embezzlement.

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 (b)(7)(D)
 (b)(7)(E)
 (b)(7)(F)
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